(c) to (e) None of the contracts currently implemented under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I and Phase II in Andhra Pradesh, are as per the new MCA as these contracts were awarded prior to adopting new MCA. However, new MCA would be followed for stretches identified under NHDP Phase III on BOT basis in Andhra Pradesh.

Complaints of emigrant workers

*509. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government are of late receiving frequent complaints about non-payment of wages, certain changes of working atmosphere contrary to committed works, frequent and forceful changes of works, from the emigrant workers of our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government thereon; and

(d) what are the other mechanism/monitoring to protect the rights of emigrant workers of our country?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) Complaints are received from time to time alleging cheating and exploitation of Indian workers by some registered/unregistered recruiting agents in India and by some foreign employers abroad. The details of the complaints received for the last three years against Recruiting Agents and action taken is as below:

(i)

Year	No. of Complaints	Show Cause Notices issued	No. of Registration Certificates Suspended/ cancelled	No. of Complaints dropped/ resolved	Cases pending which are being followed up
2005	41	41	24	17	Nil
2006	167	167	65	69	33
2007	23	23	8	5	10

Besides, 13 registered Recruiting Agents have been placed under Internal Watch List at present.

(ii) Complaints are also received against unregistered recruiting agents, the details of which and the action taken is as under:

Year	No. of complaints	Prosecution Sanctioned issued	Cases referred to State Government/POE for action
2005	53	8	45
2006	78	21	57
2007	13	6	7

(iii) The Foreign Employers, against whom complaints are received, are blacklisted by placing their names in the Prior Approval Category (PAC) List on the recommendation of the Indian Mission concerned. At Present, 329 foreign employers have been placed in Prior Approval Category (PAC) list.

(iv) With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going abroad, it has been made mandatory *w.e.f.* 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, *viz.*, demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, *i.e.*, unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian mission(s).

(v) Indian Mission abroad also attend to such grievances and take up with the local Government and also the Foreign employer for redressal of the grievances of emigrant workers.

(vi) This Ministry has also entered into bilateral labour agreements with the UAE and Kuwait, to ensure protection to emigrant workers. These MoUs provide for a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of both countries to meet every six months to discuss and resolve grievances of workers.

(vii) Further, to ensure protection and welfare of Indian workers comprehensive amendment of the Emigration Act, 1983, is already underway. Besides making the eligibility criteria for issue of Registration Certificates more stringent, the punishment for violation of any provision of the Act is being made severe and stringent.